



OCTOBER 25, 2026

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH
7717 RIVER ROAD - TOWNSEND, TN 37882
865 - 448 - 6070

WEBSITE: STFRANCISTOWNSEND.ORG
E-MAIL: STFRANCISTOWNSEND7717@GMAIL.COM

MASS & CONFESSION SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 8:30 AM (NO MASS ON WEDNESDAYS)
WEEKEND MASS: Saturday 4:00PM (Vigil Mass) The Rosary is prayed 35 minutes before each Weekend Mass
Sunday 9:00AM
HOLY DAYS: Vigil Mass 6:00 PM (evening before); Holy Day Mass 9:00 AM (day of)
CONFESSION: Saturday before Mass: 3:00 - 3:40 PM (Church confessional)
Sunday before Mass: 8:15 - 8:40 AM (Church confessional)
By Appointment: 865-448-6070

PARISH MINISTRY TEAM

PASTOR.....Fr. Antonio Giraldo
DEACON.....Dc. Jim Schmall
OFFICE MANAGERS.....Katrina Allocco &
Lesa Schmall
BOOKKEEPER.....Kathleen Halligan
LITURGY/MUSIC DIRECTOR.....JoAnne Romer-Aylward
DIR. OF RELIGIOUS ED......Julie Dew
OCIA.....Dc. Jim Schmall
ART & ENVIRONMENT.....Michele Girard &
Norene O'Donnell

GARDENS & GROUNDS.....Ilene Rainwater
FACILITIES.....David Girard
SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE.....JoAnne Romer-Aylward
PASTORAL CARE.....Suzie Fay
ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP.....Camilla Sorrell
COLUMBARIUM.....Bob Eberhardt
WELCOMING, EVENTS &.....All Parishioners
SOCIALS TEAM (WEST)

PARISH ASSOCIATIONS:

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: Debbie Eberhardt
COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN: Ilene Rainwater

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please contact the pastor or ask an usher for a registration form, and then place the completed form in the offertory basket or mail it to the church office. For more information please call the church office at 865-448-6070.
PARISHIONERS: Please report any change of contact information to the parish office via e-mail, mail or phone.
BAPTISM: Parents are required to attend the Baptismal Prep Class. Your family must be registered in the parish.
MARRIAGE: Contact the office a minimum of six months prior to the wedding for planning and preparation.
ANointing OF THE SICK: Anyone entering the hospital or in serious ill health is encouraged to be anointed.
BULLETIN DEADLINE: Please email Microsoft Word articles to sfabulletin7717@gmail.com with the subject of "Bulletin Announcement" by Tuesday 12:00PM. All submissions are subject to further editing.



How can St. Francis of Assisi be of assistance/service to you & your loved ones?
Please contact Suzie Fay with our Pastoral Care Ministry at 423-829-5466 or the Parish office at 865-448-6070.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon 10/26 8:30 AM Giraldo & Correa Family
Tue 10/27 8:30 AM **NO MORNING MASS**
Wed 10/28 **NO MORNING MASS**
Thu 10/29 8:30 AM **NO MORNING MASS**
Fri 10/30 8:30 AM Elias Ventura,† Genoveva Fuentes†
Sat 10/31 4:00 PM Beryl Quinton†
Sun 11/1 9:00 AM James Morris†

To schedule a Mass intention, please contact the Parish Office via phone or email or in person during office hours. Mass cards are available at the church office. Please specify whether the Mass Intention is for a living or deceased loved one. The usual requested donation for a Mass intention is \$10.00 in the Diocese of Knoxville.



PRAYER REQUESTS: (Homebound, sick or recovering parishioners, friends and relatives): Amy Frink, Doreen Mancuso, Claire Cheadle, Paul Fain, Joyce Fain, Julie Schirack, John & Maria Bermudes, Michael Slater, Marion McCaughey, Sue Corsini, Teresa Williams, Jeffrey Garrison, Ann Day, Ed Welsh, Dale DuRussel, Robert Schumacher, German Giraldo, Connor Dietrich, Sofia Graziano, Obed Sexton, Carmen Milton, Carolyn & Bruce Haverkos, Marlene Doerrer, Michael Grier Jr., Cathy Luck, J.R. Bell, Marcus Bolte, Amy Buxton, Cindy Gress, Tim Trudeau, Kelly Headrick

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: If you would like to donate to the altar flowers fund in memory of or in honor of someone, contact the Parish Office via phone or email. The cost is \$40.00 for 1 week. Thank You!



SANCTUARY CANDLE: If you would like to donate to the sanctuary candle fund in memory of or in honor of someone, please contact the Parish Office via phone or email. The cost is \$15 for 1 week. Thank You!



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon 10/26 9:00 AM Church and Hall Cleaning
Tue 10/27 6:00 PM OCIA - PRC
Wed 10/28
Thu 10/29
Fri 10/30
Sat 10/31 4:00 PM Vigil Mass
Sun 11/1 9:00 AM Sunday Mass

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Week of 10-18-2026

Actual Weekly Offertory	\$ 3,006.00
Budgeted Weekly Offertory	3,634.62
Weekly Surplus/(Deficit)	(628.62)
YTD Actual Offertory	62,515.70
YTD Budgeted Offertory	58,153.92
YTD Surplus/(Deficit)	4,361.78

BRINGING PRAYER AND SERVICE TOGETHER



DEACON'S NOTES

In today's gospel, an expert in the law asks Jesus: "teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He seems to be asking for guidance, but Matthew tells us he is also testing Jesus. There were many commandments in the law. If Jesus named just one, others might accuse him of saying the rest did not matter.

Jesus does not fall into the trap. He names two commandments that belong together: "you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind," and "you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Then he adds, "the whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Jesus teaches us that loving God and loving our neighbor go together. We cannot say we love God while ignoring the person beside us. Loving our neighbor also means more than being polite or wishing someone well. This love comes from God, who loved us first. He teaches us to see every person as someone made in his image.

Loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind means letting God guide our choices. We love God when we pray even when prayer feels difficult or empty. We love him when we listen to his word and accept his mercy. We let his will guide us, rather than choosing only what is easy or letting pride or fear decide for us.

This week, we can practice these two commandments in simple ways. We can spend a few minutes each day giving God our full attention. We can listen before judging and call someone who is alone. We can forgive a past hurt, offer practical help, or speak respectfully about someone who is not there. Through small acts of love, we put the gospel into practice.

Let us ask God to help us bring prayer and service together. May we not pray without helping others or help others while forgetting that our love comes from God. May we love the Lord with all that we are. May we show that love in the way we welcome, protect, forgive, and care for one another. Everything depends on these two commandments. Amen.



All Souls Day Mass

JOIN BISHOP MARK BECKMAN

on

Monday, November 2 at 4:00 pm

at Holy Cross Cemetery

14301 Northshore Dr. • Lenoir City, TN 37772



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI - JUBILEE YEAR 2026

“Hear, my lords, my sons and my brothers, and with your ears receive my words. Incline the ear of your heart and obey the voice of the Son of God. Keep His commandments with all your heart and fulfill His counsels with a perfect mind.”

CATECHISM

CORNER



BY: Julie Dew

YET MORE ON THE ROSARY

Happy Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time St. Francis!! Reflecting on last week's Corner, can we be content with this thought that even a basic form of the Holy Rosary did not exist prior to Dominic? Hmm, yes, we can. However, may we also suggest that there were "preludes" to the structure of the Rosary as preached by Dominic and his successors? Yes, I think it is safe to say that both of these can coexist!

You may ask: "What for the time forward from Dominic?" Alan de la Roche was not the only fifteenth-century writer to make mention of the Rosary's immediate relation to Dominic. Another interesting source comes up, given to us again by Mabillon (remember the French historian Benedictine monk): none other than the highly regarded Thomas à Kempis (1380-1471). Kempis notes in the chronicle of the Monastery of St. Agnes that "we read [of the Rosary] as preached by the St. Dominic" — "although," he adds, that "for a time it had fallen into neglect."

A 1234 statute from a Beguine in Ghent (these are enclosed religious communities for women established in the 13th century in Belgium. Ghent features three beguinages.) directs its faithful to pray "three coronas forming the so-called Psalter of the Blessed Virgin," and it interpreted that these "coronas" ("crowns," not the popular beer) are the sets of mysteries. We know these from arguments the Bollandists (This is a group of scholars, philologists, and historians who have been studying hagiography and the cult of the saints in Christianity since the early seventeenth century.) of the Reformation attempted to use against the Church's prayers for Mary's intercession. John de Mailly chronicled the Diocese of Metz in 1243 and included that it was a widely held practice there, especially among women, to pray 150 Angelic Salutations. — Catholic.com

What can we make of this? I am heavily persuaded to take these accounts and be satisfied to conclude that there was a rosary preached by Dominic and his successors. Dominic probably didn't sit down one day and then go back to the convent and say, "Here's the rosary we'll use forever," but he certainly planted the seeds for what would become the rosary as we know it today.

We know that Pius V issued the bull *Consueverunt Romani Pontifices*, which secured the rosary in its current form. But he was only one in a long and secure line of popes who established its history and attributed this to Dominic. The references provided to them must have been enough to persuade them, too, given the universal impact of their guidance to the Church.

In conclusion, the early history of the Dominicans shouldn't be the only thing we look at when determining the origins of the holy rosary. Most historians say to those of the past, it is prejudicial to hold the people of yesterday to the standards of today. Père Antoine Danzas (A Spanish Capuchin friar who served as the leading religious authority in New Orleans, Louisiana, during the late 18th and early 19th centuries) said, "The rosary has no history, and will probably never have one." Maybe the "history" doesn't matter.

You may be asking yourself, why pray the Rosary? This devotion can help you meditate on the joys, sorrows and triumphs of Jesus and Mary, AND their meaning in your life today. Also, you can draw closer to Jesus through Mary. This is what our heavenly Mother does all the time; she brings us closer to her Son. Mary was Jesus' first disciple: her faith, obedience, and presence throughout His life makes her the perfect example of what it means to be a disciple of Christ. And lastly, and most importantly, reciting the Rosary gives glory to God by honoring Mary as Mother of God. The Rosary is a garland of prayers that help us walk through the Gospels, the life of Jesus! So, there you go. Have a blessed week filled with many joy filled moments!

VOLUNTEER RECEPTIONIST NEEDED



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
OF EAST TENNESSEE

Catholic Charities of East Tennessee is seeking a volunteer receptionist to assist in the Office of Immigration Services. Volunteer shifts are a minimum of 3 hours and you can choose days and times that fit your availability. Apply online to join our volunteer team at CCETN.ORG/VOLUNTEER.

PLEASE
TAKE
ONE

WELCOME JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMS!

With our parish designated as a St. Francis of Assisi pilgrimage site for the 800th anniversary of his transitus, we have developed a package for pilgrims to use as they visit our parish. There is a special program for the jubilee year that highlights different parts of our parish that could help in praying during your pilgrimage here. Included in the package is a Booklet about our little church and a St. Francis prayer card. The packages are in a display box in front of the Parish Resource Center (PRC) near the sidewalk between the PRC and the church and are for you to keep. And for any visitors that did not realize that they are at a pilgrimage site, there is information in the package that explains how to gain an indulgence during your visit here.

Welcome, Pilgrims!

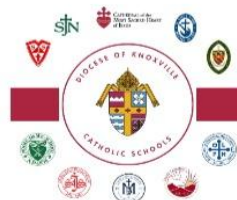
*Keep
Growing Saints*

SECOND COLLECTION OCTOBER 31 AND NOVEMBER 1 FOR

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Your gift makes it possible

Help Us Grow the Next Generation of Saints



Pictured: John, Reese, Jack, Jude, and Emily Southerland. Children attend St. Joseph School in Knoxville

Having graduated from Knoxville Catholic High School in 2003, we had always hoped to send our children to Catholic school for high school. When our daughter needed a change in middle school, we began exploring other options. As a Catholic family, choosing private education naturally meant wanting a school that aligned with our faith and values. Catholic education felt like the right fit for our family, and we're grateful for the opportunity to have our children be part of that community at St. Joseph's.

It has definitely made a difference in our family. Our children are making better choices, feel more connected to their school, and community. We've seen how being in an environment that reinforces kindness, accountability, and respect has positively influenced them. It's been wonderful to see them grow both academically and spiritually.

I would encourage families to keep an open mind and consider the lasting impact Catholic education can have on their children. My advice would be to do your own research, visit the school, ask questions, and experience the community for yourself. After spending some time in the school we were able to make a decision based on our own experiences and what we felt was best for our family.

Your Gift. Their Future. Our Faith



Invest in the next
generation of faithful
leaders, compassionate
neighbors, and Saints.

www.dioknox.org/schools-collection



THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In this Sunday's Gospel we find the truth that loving God isn't merely a matter of fervor in our hearts, but that it must be expressed in doing good for the sake of others. This month, through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was able to show that we indeed love our neighbors by assisting local families, providing them with food from our SVdP Neighbors In Need Pantry, and offering them financial assistance for utility and rent bills, etc.

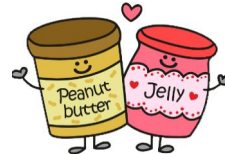
Have you considered answering the call to serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul? Contact Debbie Eberhardt at 865-312-0141 for more information.

SVdP meets
the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month
at 5:00 PM in the PRC. All are welcome!

Thank You

For your continued support of SVdP!

SVDP OCTOBER "PRODUCT OF THE MONTH" PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY



SVdP DONATION GUIDELINES

- The preprinted SVdP church contribution envelope, (which is marked for the beginning of the month) can be placed in the collection basket **ANY** time of the month. If you are not using preprinted envelopes and want to place your donation in a weekend Mass collection basket, please put your donation in an envelope (of any kind) marked SVdP to make sure it gets into the SVdP account.
- Please make any checks out to: **St. Vincent de Paul** (not St. Francis of Assisi).
- Donations can also be placed in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, located in the Narthex, to the right of the exit doors (just above the holy water station). Ushers can show you the location.



CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH CHRISTMAS BOX OF JOY PROGRAM

If you have chosen to fill your own Christmas Box of Joy, please be sure and return the box to the church by November 1st so that we can get them to the Diocese drop-off point. Remember: CCW will pay the \$9.00 shipping fee. If you have any questions, please contact Ilene Rainwater at 865-748-1873. You can also purchase a box online at <https://crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/> and then click on "Donate a Box of Joy Online."

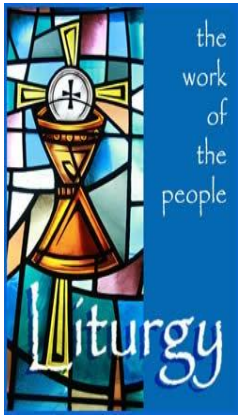


Daily CATHOLIC WISDOM

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
all your soul, and all your mind—and your neighbor as yourself."*

This is the way that Jesus summed up the law and the prophets. Finally, it is a matter of love, and the love of God and neighbor are tightly intertwined. I try to illustrate this principle by telling the life of Rose Hawthorne, a woman who loved God precisely by loving some of the most ostracized people of her time.

- Bishop Robert Barron



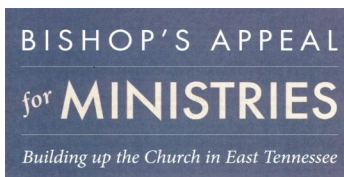
LITURGICAL MINISTRIES QUARTERLY SIGN-UPS FOR NOVEMBER, DECEMBER AND JANUARY

It is our final weekend for Liturgical Ministries signup! The signup sheets are on the counter (or one of the tables) in Shea Hall. Please take a few minutes after Mass this weekend to sign up for your ministry/ministries.

If you would like more information about our Liturgical Ministries, please check out our website, the bulletin board in Shea Hall, or contact one of our ministry heads:

Lectors	Martha Frink	865-556-4684	marthafrink00@gmail.com
EMHC*	Karen Messenger	225-572-9400	komessenger@gmail.com
Ushers	Paul Czerniewski	847-877-7347	paul.czerniewski@gmail.com
Sacristans	Kathy Meyerkord	630-698-5563	kmmeyerkord@gmail.com
Altar Servers	Dan Meyerkord	708-846-4144	dkam27@sbcglobal.net

* Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



September 2026

BA25 Participants to Date:	38
BA26 participants to Date:	40
2025 Received:	\$19,680
2026 Pledged:	\$20,590
2026 Received to Date:	\$18,303

St. Francis of Assisi parishioners, due to your tremendous support, the Bishop's Appeal for Ministries continues to support and strengthen the programs, services, and ministries of our Church. Thank you St. Francis of Assisi, Townsend - you are making ministries possible!

OCIA AT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI



If you are interested in exploring the Catholic Church - or you know someone that is - as your church home or you have been sitting in the pew next to your Catholic spouse for years wondering what you have to do to become Catholic, or you are a practicing Catholic just wanting to learn more about your faith, please join us!

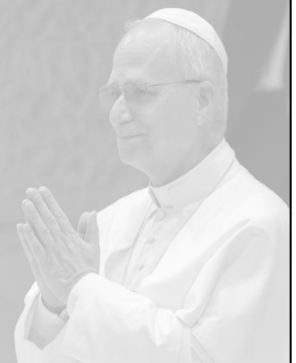
**2026-2027 classes are held
every Tuesday in the PRC at 6:00 PM.**

For more information please contact Deacon Jim:
901-493-2123 or sfadeacon7717@gmail.com.

For Mental Health Ministry

**POPE LEO'S
MONTHLY
PRAYER
INTENTION FOR
OCTOBER, 2026**

*Let us pray
that the mental health ministry
be established throughout the Church,
helping to overcome
the stigma and discrimination
of persons with mental illnesses.*



UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
11/1/26	Parish Movie Night with popcorn "Brother Sun, Sister Moon" A St. Francis/St. Clare Movie Shea Hall 4:00 - 6:00 PM	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070
11/2/26	All Souls Day Mass with Bishop Mark Beckman - 4:00 PM Holy Cross Cemetery - Lenoir City	Online: dioknox.org/events Scan: QR code on poster in Shea Hall E-Mail: N/A
12/6/26	Parish Christmas Party Tremont Lodge - Townsend 5:00 - 8:00 PM	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070
12/19/26	Parish Advent Mission (Shea Hall) with Fr. Julian Peters, OSB	Online: N/A E-Mail: StFrancisTownsend7717@gmail.com Phone: 865-448-6070

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES TO PROMOTE DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST



"Catholics are encouraged to follow the commandments not simply out of obligation, but primarily out of love for God and neighbor. Embracing the commandments also prepares us to receive God's grace in the sacraments, especially Holy Communion (the Eucharist) on the Lord's Day, and to live in harmony with the mystical body of Christ and our neighbor in general."

- Catholic Answers.com



ST. CLARE GIFT SHOP

OPEN
after weekend Masses
and by request/appointment
after daily Mass

MOVIE Night

Shea Hall

4 PM

"Brother Sun, Sister Moon" is events in the life of St. Francis of Assisi from before his conversion experience through his audience with the pope, including his friendship with St. Clare.

November 1, 2026